

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04993 290904Z

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ACTION ORM-01

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R 290845Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1705
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4993

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, IR, IZ
SUBJ: KURDISH REFUGEES

REF: A. FRANKFURT 3278 B. STATE 115268 (NOTAL) C. TEHRAN 4492
(NOTAL)

1. KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY (KDP) REPRESENTATIVE FEREIDUN AHMADI VISITED EMBASSY MAY 28 TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF POSSIBLE KURDISH REFUGEE PROGRAM. EMBOFFS OUTLINED PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES IN SETTING UP KURDISH REFUGEE PROGRAM IN IRAN AND PROBLEMS IN PROCESSING THESE REFUGEES AT INS REGIONAL OFFICES. AHMADI EXPLAINED THAT GOI HAS BEEN COORDINATING RATHER CLOSELY WITH HIS OFFICE IN RECENT WEEKS AND HAD ENCOURAGED HIM TO CONTACT EMBASSIES WHERE KURDISH VISA APPLICANTS HAD GONE, APPARENTLY WISHING TO FACILITATE EXIT OF AS MANY KURDISH INTELLECTUALS AS DESIRE TO LEAVE. HE SAID GOI WAS NOW ISSUING A FEW LAISSEZ-PASSERS ROUTINELY FOR KURDS WHO COULD BE ACCOMMODATED WITHOUT VISAS ARRANGED IN ADVANCE. (HE CITED LEBANON, SYRIA, BULGARIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA AS EXAMPLES.)

2. AHMADI ADDRESSED TWO SPECIFC PROBLEMS RAISED IN REFTEL A (RETURN TO IRAN AND ACCESS TO LOCAL RECORDS). HE BELIEVES ONE-WAY LAISSEZ-PASSERS NEED NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF KURDISH REFUGEE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 04993 290904Z

DEPARTURES. HE SAID KDP COULD GUARANTEE THAT IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT ANY KURDS WHO HAD GONE TO THE US WANTED TO LEAVE, A PLACE WOULD BE FOUND IN ANOTHER COUNTRY THROUGH KDP REPRESENTATIVES. ON THE SECOND POINT, AHMADI THOUGHT GOI WOULD COOPERATE TOTALLY WITH

ACCESS TO LOCAL RECORDS IN VIEW ITS DESIRE TO FACILITATE EXIT OF REFUGEES. EMBOFF ALSO MENTIONED INS CONCERN THAT KURDISH REFUGEE PROGRAM MIGHT RESULT IN LARGE INFUX OF APPLICANTS. AHMADI SAID KDP COULD GUARANTEE THAT ONLY REFUGEES NOW REGISTERED WITH GOI AS INTENDING TO TRAVEL TO US WOULD APPEAR TO APPLY FOR VISAS. (COMMENT: GOI'S LIST FROM KURDISH SOURCES, COPY IN EMBASSY'S POSSESSION, CONTAINS NAMES OF 419 PRINCIPALS AND 155 DEPENDENTS FOR TOTAL OF 574. ONLY SOME 100 PRINCIPALS ARE FORMALLY REGISTERED AT THIS EMBASSY.)

3. COMMENT: PER DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE (REFTEL B), EMBASSY IS ADVISING INTENDING KURDISH REFUGEES THAT RESETTLEMENT IN UNITED STATES UNLIKELY. EMBASSIES OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THOSE MENTIONED IN PARA ONE ARE EITHER AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM HOME OR TREATING KURDS AS NORMAL APPLICANTS FOR IMMIGRATION. BRITISH, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE ADMITTED THREE PRINCIPALS WITH DEPENDENTS AS IMMIGRANTS. AHMADI FEELS THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT US ATTITUDE WILL BE BEFORE THEY MAKE A FINAL DECISION. ALTHOUGH AHAMDI'S ASSURANCES DO NOT TOTALLY ANSWER CONCERNS RAISED BY THE FRANKFURT INS OFFICE, WE FEEL THAT AN OFFICIAL REACTION SHOULD BE MADE. ADDRESSEE COMMENTS REQUESTED.

HELMS

CONFIDENTIAL

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